

Notice of Allowability

Application No.	Applicant(s)
09/881,212	BIRK ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit
Ismael Negron	2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to Amendment filed September 11, 2003.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16, 18-20, 22 and 24.
3. The drawings filed on 25 September 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

5. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
<input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	<input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____.
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____.	<input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment filed on September 11, 2003 has been entered. Claims 1, 5, 9, 15, 17, 20, 22 and 24 have been amended. Claims 17, 21 and 23 have been cancelled. No claims have been added. Claims 1-16, 18-20, 22 and 24 are still pending in this application, with claims 1, 5, 9, 20 and 24 being independent.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-16, 18-20, 22 and 24 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant teaches an illumination device for an apparatus selected from the group consisting of a confocal scanning microscope, a flow cytometer, an endoscope, a chromatograph and a lithography instrument. The illumination device having a laser, a microstructured optical device, means for spectrally broadening and shaping the laser beam to direct illumination onto a object, such microstructured device having a photonic band gap material and means to adjust the polarization of the spectrally broadened light.

No prior art was found teaching individually, or suggesting in combination, all of the features of the applicants' invention, specifically means for spectrally broadening and shaping the laser beam to direct illumination onto a object, such microstructured device having a photonic band gap material and means to adjust the polarization of the spectrally broadened laser beam.

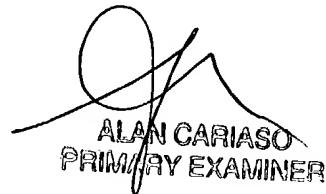
4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ismael Negron whose telephone number is (703) 308-6086. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra L. O'Shea, can be reached on (703) 305-4939. The facsimile machine number for the Art Group is (703) 308-7382.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



ALAN CARIASO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Inr

October 23, 2003